

CITY OF WINCHESTER  
COMMON COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Croyle  
Prayer – Mayor Croyle

Regular meeting @ 6:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers / City Hall / 113 E. Washington St.

Mayor Croyle called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting. Clerk-Treasurer, Vicki Haney, recorded the minutes.

The Clerk's roll call showed all City Council Members present.

Precinct 1	Councilor Larry Preston
Precinct 2	Councilor Tom Sells
Precinct 3	Councilor Santiago (Jim) Nunez Jr.
Precinct 4	Councilor Leesa Friend
At Large	Councilor Todd Schroeder

Additional Officials Present:

Meeks Cockerill, City Attorney; Bill Yost, Fire Chief; Kent VanNote, Assistant Fire Chief; and Mike Burk, Police Chief.

Citizens Present:

Cleo McFarland, Ohio Valley Gas Corporation representative and Gary Girtton, Randolph County Commissioner

Media Present:

Bill Richmond (News Gazette)

Approval of the Minutes:

Councilor Sells moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2013 meeting minutes. Councilor Nunez seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nuisance Ordinance for Weeds

Council approved a committee be created at a previous Council meeting for the purpose of discussing the City's weed ordinance. Councilor Sells stated the committee wants to recommend changing the nuisance ordinance to declare 20 acres or more of contiguous property could be baled for hay. The Committee was considering a setback for pedestrian right of ways and the grass could grow no more

than 30 inches. Chief Burk recommended deleting Section 94.23 and amending Section 94.04 because the City is no longer required to send a certified letter for weed ordinance violations. The ordinance needs to be consistent with the current laws.

#### Wind Turbines

Councilor Sells asked about the status of the wind turbine. Mayor Croyle stated the turbine has been ordered and the project is progressing. A revised timeline has not been established. The project is progressing.

#### Athletic Field Use Policy

The Council will need to approve the fees for the Athletic Field Use Policy. An ordinance will be presented to the Council. Mayor Croyle asked the Council Members if they have any questions about the current proposed fee structure that would go into effect in the spring of 2014. Councilor Nunez stated his questions were answered at the Park Board Meeting in June. Attorney Cockerill will draft an ordinance for the fee structure.

#### 516 N Meridian

The property owned by the City located at 516 N. Meridian Street needs to be appraised by two appraisers and advertised for sale. Councilor Schroeder moved to obtain two appraisals. Councilor Preston seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Revolving Loan Fund Committee

Mayor Croyle explained a Revolving Loan Fund Committee was established when the City was awarded the Revolving Loan Fund Grant from the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). The Common Council has an appointment to the committee; Jason Allen previously filled the position. The committee meets as needed. Councilor Nunez moved to appoint Councilor Leesa Friend to the Revolving Loan Fund committee. Councilor Sells seconded. Motion passed 5-0. The Revolving Loan Fund Committee will meet on July 29, 2013 at 5:30 pm.

#### Dumpsters

Mayor Croyle stated illegal dumping in the dumpster located at the Street Department was a discussion point during a recent budget workshop. A major expense for the sanitation budget and general fund is providing dumpsters at the Street Department. Mayor Croyle, Chief Burk, and the Council Members have discussed this issue. In the past the City has tried to come up with a soft approach to remedy this issue. An ordinance was adopted requiring contractors to obtain a permit before dumping in the dumpsters. Currently no permits (s) have been issued. A new ordinance could be adopted which would provide a very hefty fine on citizens who do not reside in the City of Winchester if they dump in the City dumpsters. Chief Burk has made a huge effort to explore different solutions to this issue. Clerk-Treasurer Haney asked if local contractors who reside in the City would be allowed to use the dumpsters. Mayor Croyle stated that would not be allowed. Mayor Croyle does not want to limit residents from cleaning out their homes, garages, etc. The new ordinance may be presented at the next meeting. Mayor Croyle wants to eliminate the permit ordinance. Councilor Nunez stated the dumpsters are constantly full.

#### Orange Street Curb

Councilor Nunez stated residents have been asking about the curb located at the corner of Orange Street and S. Main Street. A high spot remains at Southside Park and it has been run over many times. The curb is breaking down. Mayor Croyle stated the sidewalk may need to be built up in that area thus drivers would not be driving over the sidewalk. It is hard to navigate the curb.

#### Vision Park Signage

The billboard sign located at Vision Park was erected on July 12, 2013. The city website will become mobile thus the new sign at Vision Park can be linked to it.

#### Fountain Park Cemetery

Councilor Preston stated an executive session was previously held with employees for the purpose of discussing the operations of the Cemetery. The board was trying to minimize the complaints from citizens about the grass and weeds in the cemetery. The Brennan Fountain is operational again. Councilor Preston is attempting to address the complaints one-on-one; and more man hours will be appropriated in the budget for cemetery maintenance. Councilor Nunez stated SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) are being developed.

#### Department Reports

Mike Burk, Police Chief – submitted a written report.

Frank Lowrance, Street Department Superintendent – no report submitted.

Kathy Bond, Parks Department Superintendent –submitted a written report. The Park Board is applying for Reforestation Funding from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Due to the infestation of the Emerald Ash Bore many trees in the Park have been lost. Four inch trees will be planted in the Goodrich Park. Councilor Nunez stated many complaints were received during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival about no toilet paper being available in the restrooms and the water not working.

Bill Yost, Fire Chief –submitted a written report.

Chris Martin, Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent – no report submitted.

Councilor Schroeder moved to accept the department reports as presented. Councilor Sells seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

#### Accounts Payable Vouchers

The end of June accounts payable vouchers totaled One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Seven Dollars and Ninety Eight Cents (\$118,927.98).

General Fund	\$8,423.08
Motor Vehicle Highway Fund	\$1,026.09
Fire Department Non-Reverting Training	\$51.45
Ambulance Non-Reverting Fund	\$532.00
CEDIT Fund	\$18,056.89

Win Pol Dept. Prof Development	\$16.00
Win Fire Dept Prof Development	\$43.49
Weed Assessment Fund	\$213.84
Employee Welfare Benefit Plan	\$90,565.14

The July 1 thru July 10 accounts payable vouchers totaled Ninety Five Thousand Seven Hundred Two Dollars and Thirty Seven Cents (\$95,702.37).

General Fund	\$26,474.62
Motor Vehicle Highway Fund	\$1,888.78
Light Fund	\$4,734.61
Court Cash Due County Fund	\$1,358.00
City Court User Fee Fund	\$796.00
Cumulative Capital Improvement	\$3,978.75
Fire Pension Fund	\$3,965.74
Ambulance Non Reverting Fund	\$776.67
CEDIT Fund	\$2,500.00
Win Pol Prof Development	\$404.00
Cum. Capital Development Fund	\$186.10
Employee Welfare Benefit Plan	\$48,091.96
Animal Control Donation Fund	\$547.14

The Payroll accounts payable vouchers totaled Eighty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety One Dollars and Fifteen Cents (\$89,791.15). The total of all accounts payable vouchers totaled Three Hundred Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty One Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$304,421.50). Councilor Preston asked about the claim from Servpro for water damage in Chief Burk's Office. Mayor Croyle stated the furnace had to be replaced. The claims were filed with the insurance company. Councilor Sells moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers. Councilor Schroeder seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

#### Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Clerk-Treasurer Haney announced a Council meeting will be held on July 22, 2013 to reestablish the CCD (Cumulative Capital Development) rate. A public hearing at 6:30 pm will precede the special Council

meeting. A public hearing for the 2014 budget will be held on August 19, 2013 at 6:15 pm. Clerk-Treasurer Haney met with a representative from the DLGF (Department of Local Government and Finance) to review the 2014 budget. An additional appropriation is necessary for funding the Light (streetlights) Fund budget in 2013. A public hearing for the additional appropriation will be held on August 19, 2013 at 6:30 pm preceding the Council meeting. The expenses for the Street Lights have increased due to electricity increasing. The date for the first reading of the 2014 salary ordinance will be on August 19, 2013. The 2014 budget will be adopted on September 16, 2013. Clerk-Treasurer Haney will also meet with the Randolph County Council for the non-binding review of the 2014 budget on September 4, 2014. Councilor Nunez asked about the email about the 2012 General Fund not being balanced. This issue was not discussed at the budget workshop. A budget workshop meeting will be held on July 22, 2013 immediately following the special meeting for reestablishing the CCD rate.

#### Winchester Activities

Councilor Preston stated the 8 year olds baseball team had an undefeated season and won the championship. The coaches were Ryan Barker, Kyle Preston, and Todd Loyd. The Force (Winchester Community High School Band) won first place again this past weekend.

#### WCCPC

Councilor Nunez on behalf of the WCCPC (Winchester Community Cultural Preservation Committee) thanked the community for their generous donations to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks. The Park's Department, Police Department, and Fire Departments were all thanked for their participation at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks.

#### Mayor's Report

The Redevelopment Commission met on July 11, 2013. Tom Osborne, Winchester Community High School (WCHS), Principal, explained the school needs Sixty Six Thousand Fifty Dollars (\$66,050.00) to purchase specialized software, curriculum, update the school's lathe, purchase tools and gauges and robotic kits and accessories. Funding for the technology equipment would allow WCHS to teach the Advancing Manufacturing job certification curriculum in the upcoming school year. This does address the drastic change in education that is needed in our community. The Redevelopment Commission approved Thirty Three Thousand Twenty Five Dollars (\$33,025.00) from TIF (Tax Increment Funding) proceeds to help purchase the technology equipment. Mayor Croyle will amend the EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) revenue in the amount of Thirty Three Thousand Twenty Five Dollars (\$33,025.00) for the remaining expense for the technology equipment. The EDIT Plan will need to be amended for this expense. Mayor Croyle stated he is very excited about this project.

Mayor Coyle will be attending a Mayors Roundtable on July 18, at Wabash, Indiana.

Mayor Croyle will be meeting with JP Hall, Indiana Landmarks Eastern Regional Director, to discuss the façade grant program locations in Winchester.

#### Announcements

The Board of Public Works and Safety will meet on July 16, 2013 at 8:00 am in the Council Chambers.

The Randolph County EDIT Board will meet on July 16, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

The Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held on July 17, 2013.

Adjournment

There being no further matters to discuss, Councilor Schroeder moved to adjourn. Councilor Sells seconded. Motion passed 4-0. The July 15, 2013 meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

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Mayor, Steve Croyle

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk-Treasurer, Vicki Haney